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PelhamNEWS

Published by Osprey Media Publishing Inc. • Issue No. 15 Volume 14

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INSIDE

Model railroaders attracted youngsters of all ages to their club house in a converted church in downtown Fenwick last Sunday.

Visitors watch the railway stock roll and enjoyed trains and layouts created with imagination and enthusiasm.

Trains chug again for the public this Sunday as part of their annual Spring Open House.

See page 6 for story and photos.

WATER METER



WAYNE CAMPBELL, Staff Photo

Pelham is launching a water meter replacement project that will see monitoring, reporting and billing go high-tech. From left are, Ward 1 Coun. Sharon Cook, chief administrative officer Martin Yarnich, Ward 1 Coun. Debbie Urbanowicz holding an electronic digital reader, Mayor Dave Augustyn with a new water meter and, from Neptune Technology Group Ltd., project manager Brian Carman and territory manager David Iococca.

High-tech water meters ready to saturate Pelham

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

The town this week sent out 1,500 pamphlets to alert homeowners about plans to replace the town's 3,100 water meters. The \$800,000 project begins next Monday.

Pelham's meter-reading system is moving from notes on

cards to high-tech drive-by radio transmission readings.

The change will eliminate the process of visually reading meters, recording results, preparing bills and sending them out as much as a month later to a process that will take only days, said treasurer Carl Pupo.

Reading meters now takes

more than two weeks and must be done by hand.

The town's new digital meters have radio transmitters that can be read by a hand-held reader from the street.

They will provide information about flow, interruptions, possible leaks and amount of water used to replace bills electronically.

The pamphlets outline how to make appointments with Neptune Technology group to replace meters.

Replacement will typically take about a half-hour, said project manager Brian Carman.

See WATER | page 2

See Inside: **PUPU'S**
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■ WATER

Appointments by telephone

FROM PAGE 1

Appointments will be taken by phone 1-800-667-4387 or online at www.watermeterapppt.com, with project code of 1635.

"We will also make cold-calls when we are in an area," he said.

Neptune installers wear uniforms, carry identification and drive vehicles with the company's name, he said.

Mayor Dave Augustyn called the estimated four-month project by the contractor "a bold step to complete the project as quickly as possible."

He said new meters will provide a more accurate system that will alert users to problems almost immediately. Water bills are now sent out every four months, which could make it that long for a homeowner to discover a leaky toilet that is unnecessarily running up a bill, he said.

"I've had that experience."

With the new meters, monitoring by town staff could lead to unusual usage being detected sooner and allow the town to alert the homeowners.

The meters record 96 days of hourly consumption data and can be read from as far as 3.2 km away. The town will shorten its billing period to two months from four.

The new meters have a tampering alert on them, said Neptune territory manager David Jacobo.

The town will install the meters on fire hydrants to measure flow of water during fire calls and regular flushing of the water system.

■ PARTICIPATION DAY



WAYNE CAMPBELL, Staff Photo

Betty-Ann Hoch, Santa Cyopik and Brenda Neilson hold a new banner the Pelham Communities in Bloom committee will have spread over Pelham St. to promote its spring and fall Participation Days. The spring event is Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Centennial Park in Fenwick. Participants will pick up debris along Pelham roads to encourage a spring cleanup attitude. The banner was made by Donna Stricko of Serenity Signs in Fenwick.

Goal is to keep the town of Pelham beautiful

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

In the Spring and the Fall, Pelham Communities in Bloom Committee invites the town to spruce up the town.

And it is doing it with a new banner stretched across Pelham St. this year.

On Saturday, April 24, crews will gather at Centennial Park in Fenwick to spread out to

pick up litter, trash and assorted debris along Pelham roads.

"We are encouraging individuals and organizations to adopt-a-road to come out and clean up their road," said co-ordinator Brenda Neilson.

"Phone ahead and let us know you're picking a road," she said so the committee can add the number to the list of participants. She is also suggesting students from the

two area high schools, E. L. Crossley and Notre Dame, to register in advance for the Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge a National Volunteer Week project.

Advance registration will also ensure students qualify for community service hours.

see BLOOM | Page 9

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DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
 John Crandies, a Niagara College construction techniques and renovation technician program student, cuts a piece of drywall in The Orchard in Pelham Saturday.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
 Ana Delgado, a Niagara College events management program student, puts a coat of paint on the walls at The Orchard in Pelham Sunday.

■ **COMMUNITY:** College students draw praise for renovating art studio

Many hands applauded

DAVE JOHNSON
 PelhamNEWS Staff

Angie Geiss couldn't thank Niagara College students enough Saturday for all their hard work in making a dream come true.

"Not only have they built this building, but they've helped build In The Orchard," Geiss, owner of the art studio, said.

In The Orchard is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing art programming for the community, youth and youth at risk, she said.

Saturday saw students from construction techniques and renovation technician program and event management program, make a huge push at finishing renovations to In The Orchard's building at 1433 Pelham St. in Tonawanda.

The work, which started in January, was part of the college's Many Hands Project. Many Hands, in its 13th year, is a one-day, community-driven program organized by event management students in conjunction with students from the college's construction programs.

"It's amazing what's happening here," Geiss said before an official welcoming ceremony. She said the college students have been working hard to bring the art studio, which offers after-school programming, up to building and fire codes and making it a safe and clean environment.

"They built stairs inside the building to make it easier for

us."

Before the work, Geiss said people had to walk out the front door of the building and head around back to get to the basement.

When the work is complete, Geiss will have office space for the first time, the basement will be accessible and accessible washrooms will be in place.

Construction program coordinator Co. in Robinson said the building was in rough shape when college students first showed up.

"We look for buildings that have issues to expose our students to all levels of renovation," he said.

It was noted during the welcoming ceremony that all of the people standing inside on the first floor wouldn't have been able to do so months ago. The first floor was ready to collapse.

In addition to the floor, Robinson said the building came with electrical and mechanical issues that had to be dealt with by the students.

And thanks to many sponsors — Canadian Tire Financial Services, ACB Electrical, Sherwin Williams, Direct Energy, IBEW Local Union 202, Star Tile Centre, Peasativites, Meridian Credit Union, Country Corner Market and Prime Time Living — the work is nearly complete.

Marcey Saunders, Canadian Tire Financial Services associate vice-president of human resources, said the company

was proud to be an official sponsor of the Many Hands Project and the In The Orchard renovation work.

"This project is really about building communities, and you should be really proud of what you've done here for the community," she said.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said the project was about volunteerism and culture. He added that culture is one of the four pillars of building a community and taking it forward into the future.

Geiss said the goal of In The Orchard, in addition to helping youth and youth at risk, is to bring art and culture to the community and expand upon it.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to bring this to other communities as well."

She said the event management students put on some fun fundraisers to help the project along.

Phil Geunley, an event management student and co-chairman of the project, said four fundraisers were held and brought in \$10,000 to help carry out the work.

He said a lot of thanks had to go to sponsors as well, because without them the project wouldn't have been possible. He and co-chairman Brianna Cifoni also thanked all of the volunteers who came out and helped with the project as well.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

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PHOTO: GUY LAWSON
Wayne Campbell, owner

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perspective



Wayne Campbell
EDITOR

Chance to sound off

You can sound off on the town's proposed noise control bylaw at a public meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 26.

Town staff have prepared a bylaw to control noise based on time when noise is made rather than intensity of noise based on measurement.

Generally it tries to limit noise in residential areas after 11 p.m. and before 7 a.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. on Sundays and holidays. It varies a do-it-yourselfer, snowmobile, ATV driver or someone who commutes and has to clear the driveway of snow before 7, you may question the bylaw.

Some do. Town councillors and staff have fielded objections, some rather passionate. Staff set up the meeting on a suggestion from town councillors. They felt the public should have a forum to comment. Staff are asking for the public meeting, put your passion in your pocket, have a copy of your presentation available for the clerk and limit comments to 10 minutes. A copy of the draft bylaw is on the town's website: www.pelham.ca. The meeting will be held at Pelham Fire Station No. 1 in Fonthill.

The next day, April 27, a two-session open house is on a wider subject, the town's proposed new Official Plan. They will be held at the fire station at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. It's an overview of the town's future for new and areas of development. The Official Plan, a draft of which is on the website, is the basic guide the town will follow.

Pelham's Official Plan has taken a few years to come together. It was influenced by planning changes from the province such as greenbelt legislation and policy statements. It faced criticism in the region, planning directions. Finally, it had push and shove from Pelham groups and individuals.

Now you have a chance to look.

comment

Scrapping the long-gun registry

During the last session of Parliament, my colleague, MP Candice Hoepfner, introduced a Private Member's Bill to scrap the decade-old Canadian long-gun registry.

Hoepfner's bill is entitled Bill C-391, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Firearms Act (repeal of long-gun registry).

I would first like to make it clear that I am opposed to the gun registry, and aim to con-



Dean Allison
FROM THE HILL

tinue my support for Hoepfner's bill in the House of Commons.

I hope to see this bill pass through the legislative process as speedily as possible, so that we can finally see an end to the

long-gun registry in Canada.

The long-gun registry was originally budgeted to cost Canadians \$2-million, but since its conception the price tag has spiralled out of control to an estimated \$2-billion over a decade later. Both Hoepfner and I recognize that the reason the long-gun registry has become such a failure for Canadians is because it targets the wrong people.

see ALLISON | Page 5

Good news on the Kame

We heard some good news lately about the Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) on the Fonthill Kame.

As you will recall, that The Fonthill Kame Delist Decision was a rare, 75-metre-tall landmark that was formed by retreating glaciers 13,000 years ago. It's 6 kilometre long and 3 kilometre wide—roughly 1000 hectares, and boasts the highest point in the Niagara Region and the headwaters of the Twelve Mile Creek.



Dave Augustyn
MAYORAL VIEW

Microclimatic conditions create an ideal atmosphere for tender fruit production on "the Kame" including peaches, sweet and sour cherries, apples and pears.

The Fonthill Kame was originally identified in 1980 as a provincially significant area and became an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) in 1983. This ANSI designation restricts development for reasons of heritage, science or education.

While a new area to the south side of the Kame (near Hillside Cemetery) would be added to the ANSI, other changes would significantly reduce the protected area. In fact, only small portions of the main components of the Kame Delta complex would be included and the landform as a whole would no longer be protected.

The area that the MNR proposed to remove from the ANSI encompasses much of what is called the Upper Terrace. The Upper Terrace to be removed stretches from the south end of E.L. Crossley High School, past Effingham, to Lookout Street and lies between Tice Road and Highway 20. This area is the most vulnerable to development pressure.

But, since last May, Niagara Regional Council, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, more than a dozen Pelham citizens, Town of Pelham Council, and Tim Hudak, MPP, have publicly recommended that the current ANSI be maintained.

see AUGUSTYN | Page 5

Benjamin Moore

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■ REAL ESTATE: Level ahead of 2006 to 2008 before 2009 slump

Housing sales show improvement

Homebuyers are scouring the market trying to find elusive bargains even though demand for all types of properties is on the rise and inventory levels are at an all time low.

The market logic of under supply combined with strong demand continued to propel our local average housing price upward throughout the first quarter of 2010.

According to MLS statistics there were 51 sales of single family homes in Pelham during the first quarter of this year—a staggering 89% increase over the doldrums experienced during January to March 2009 when only 27 transactions were recorded.

The current sales figure is also 28% ahead of the 2006-2008 average of 40 unit sales in the first quarter.

The current 12 month average price in Pelham now stands at \$312,274 just a few dollars shy of the quarterly



Cathy Berkhout-Bosse
REAL ESTATE VIEW

“During the first quarter of 2009 it took an average of 117 days on the market for a home to sell.”

peak level of \$312,314 recorded at year end 2007.

The current figure represents a 5.2% increase over the first quarter 2009 total of \$296,284 and is the highest level ever recorded in any previous first quarter in Pelham.

Perhaps the best indicator of the current health of the resale housing market is the statistics relating to the average time on

the market for homes that have sold.

During the first quarter of 2009 it took an average of 117 days on the market for a home to sell.

The figure for January-March of 2010 dropped to an average of 82 days. In 2008 the average time on the market was 71 days.

It is important to keep short term market comparison statistics in perspective.

Yes we have experienced significant improvement over last year but this hardly surpassing given the time of economic crisis that we are experiencing.

Homes are still taking 11 days longer on average to sell than they were two years ago. The market is moving steadily along—but much more like the tortoise than the proverbial hare.

Cathy Berkhout-Bosse, H.B.A. is a real estate broker and writer living in Pelham. You may read past columns at <http://hipblog.berkhoutbosse.com/>

■ ALLISON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Illegal weapons have not been banned in the least by the registry, and those who would make use of such weapons in criminal activities are the ones that government should be putting their resources to combating.

The registry is not cracking down on crime like the government of the day promised it. It unfairly targets aw-abiding farmers and hunters, not criminals.

I was very pleased to see that a majority of MPs from across party lines supported this private members' bill during the votes that took place during the last session.

It is very important for those Opposition MPs who have supported this private members' bill in the past at

second reading to continue their support for ending the long-gun registry as it makes its way through Parliament. This bill is now before the public safety and national security committee, and I hope that the members of the Liberal, NDP and Bloc Québécois parties can assure its speedy passage through this stage so that we can put an end to this costly and ineffective program.

I expect that the opposition parties recognize this reality in Hoepner's legislation and stand with us so that we can — together — work towards a stronger, safer, and better Canada.

Dean Allison is the Member of Parliament representing the riding of Niagara West—Glanbrook.

■ AUGUSTYN

Province's stated Kame intentions good news

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Minister Jim Bradley also indicated to me in December that he is supportive of maintaining the current ANSI boundaries.

Then, last week at Pelham town council, we received great news from the Minister of Nat-

ural Resources. In a letter to the town the minister stated:

"Please let me assure you that it is our intention to maintain and, where feasible, enhance the current ANSI boundary."

Now, before we celebrate this success, the MNR does have to complete its formal review process.

That being said, I am delighted with the "intention" of the minister and with this positive progress.

You may contact Mayor Dave Augustyn at mayordave@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelhammayor-dave.blogspot.com.

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Some allergy sufferers are turning to natural remedies that support the immune system and prevent the release of inflammatory substances. Many of these remedies are without adverse effects and the body does not build up a tolerance to them. Antioxidants like quercetin and grape seed may help calm the allergic response by reducing the inflammation caused by the immune system.

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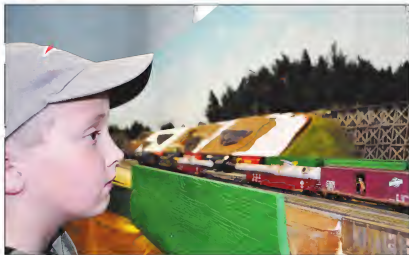
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■ MODEL RAILROADING



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photos

The Greater Niagara Model Railroad Engineers held an open house Sunday in Fenwick.



Small-scale trains, large-scale fun

DAVE JOHNSON
PelhamNEWS Staff

A few minor derailments didn't stop the trains from running at Greater Niagara Model Railroad Engineers open house Sunday.

After quickly getting everything back on track, club members were able to let visitors get back to watching various trains snake their way through the hall on Maple St. in Fenwick.

"We hold open houses a few times a year to show our hobby to interested people. There are a lot of families that come through here," club member Dave Streniaw said.

"There are a lot of families that come through here."

Streniaw said children are fascinated by the scale-model locomotives and railroad cars.

While people watch the trains, the tracks they travel on lead through many different scenes and are connected around the entire building. Trains pass underneath tunnels, through hill passes and switching yards.

Each area has its own unique scene. You can see deer in the hills, a bear chasing a man in another, a bed airplane landing, a moonshine still and many other little interesting details.

"We have a lot of little vignettes to show people and keep them interested," Streniaw said.

With seven or eight trains running the building, there's a dispatcher in the building to make sure things run

smoothly. That dispatcher is connected by headset to the club members throughout the building.

Streniaw said various parts of the layout are named after club members who have passed away and the newest section of track and scenery was added three years ago.

A lot of the club members are retirees and Streniaw said you have to learn some skills to get the trains running just right.

The hobby, he said, can be quite time consuming if a person really gets into it.

"A lot of people start with small layouts and then go from there. You can out a lot of time into this."

Train engines can run anywhere between \$85 to \$150 and railcars can cost between \$15 and \$25.

Streniaw said anywhere between 150 and 300 people will show up for one of the open houses like Sundays.

Mike Phalen, of Niagara Falls, visited for the first time with sons Kelly and Kyle.

"This is awesome," Phalen said.

The Phalens collect trains and have a 4x8 layout at home they're working on.

"I'm getting some ideas from here," he said.

Greater Niagara Model Railroad Engineers is holding another open house next Sunday from noon to 4:30 p.m. at its building at 1141 Maple St. in Fenwick. See their website at www.gnrae.ca for more information.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

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REGIONAL COUNCIL

Too many politicians here: Councillor

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Tribune Staff

PELHAM — Niagara Region has too many politicians for its size, says Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook.

The Pelham town council questioned Pelham Regional Coun. Brian Baty about the reluctance of regional council to address the issue following Baty's regular regional review at Tuesday's town council meeting.

Fort Erie Mayor Doug Martin recently suggested a council of 12 regional mayors, a chair and six regional councillors. They would include three from St. Catharines, two from Niagara Falls and one from Welland.

Regional council now has 31 members including the 12 mayors, regional councillors and chairman.

"For a long time I've been saying we need a reduction in the number of politicians in Niagara," she said. "We have a population of 400,000 people and 100 politicians. That's ridiculous."

Cook said she was disappointed to read that regional council said it was too busy to deal with the issue before the end of the term this year.

"You have five months, that's plenty of time," she said.

Baty, who was chair of the region's governance committee, said a decision was made not to look at governance until

the next term of council. St. Catharines attempted to increase its number of regional representatives.

"With five months left races for regional positions have already begun," Baty said explaining people have made commitments based on the rules as they stand now.

Mayor Dave Augustyn, who also serves on regional council, said Martin was going to circulate his idea to local councils before it would be debated by regional council.

"It will be coming here for debate," he said about Pelham town council. "We can look forward to a debate at that time."

■ REGION

Branch collection

PelhamNEWS Staff

THOROLD — Looking to get rid of your unwanted branches and twigs? The region is providing regular pick-ups all spring and summer beginning this week.

Residents should make sure their branches are tied securely in bundles no heavier than 22.5 kg with no branch longer than a metre or wider than seven centimetres. Tree stumps will not be collected.

Branches smaller than 30 centimetres and no wider than 1.5 centimetres can be included with Green Bin organic waste. Branches are also accepted for free at various landfill sites in the region. The branch collection program runs from April to July.

For more information, call the region's Waste Management Services at 905-356-4141 or visit www.niagara-region.ca

In Pelham branch bundles need to be out on the curb by 7 a.m. on the Monday of the following collection weeks: April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12.

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WAYNE CAMPBELL, Staff Photo

Nancy Bozzato, Pelham's new town clerk, records her first official town council meeting at the Pelham Fire Station No. 1. Bozzato step up from deputy clerk on the retirement of town clerk Cheryl Mickette. A Pelham native, Bozzato became deputy clerk in 2001 after moving over from the Niagara Region where she worked since 1976.

■ ELECTION: Clerks urge response to mail out

Form builds voters list

DAVE JOHNSON
WANE CAMPBELL
Tribune Staff

WAINFLEET — A very important form — the Municipal Enumeration Form — will arrive in the mailboxes of some residents across Niagara in the next couple of weeks.

The forms are being mailed to specific households where Municipal Property Assessment Corp. (MPAC) needs to confirm or update occupant information currently on file, says Wainfleet's election coordinator Laurie Dayboll and Penny Christie MPAC's municipal relations representative for Niagara.

The two say if the forms aren't filled out and sent back by June 1, a person may not end up on the preliminary list of voters for the October municipal election.

And if a person is not on the list, they won't get a voter's card and may not know where to go to vote.

"It's really important people fill the information out and send it back," says Dayboll.

MPAC compiles preliminary voters lists for municipalities based on information collected from the municipal election form and other data, like deeds from the registry office when a person buys a home.

What MPAC and municipalities are experiencing is citizenship information not being included. Without the citizenship status, a person does not end up on the preliminary voters list sent out.

"It's crucial we have the information," says Christie.

When someone purchases a home, she says MPAC doesn't know citizenship status, so by default the person ends up as having unconfirmed citizenship.

MPAC automatically sends out a questionnaire for those people to fill out so the missing information can be added in and voters lists can be kept up to date.

Pelham's new town clerk Nancy Bozzato said the town sent out 800 letters before the 2006 civic election to confirm citizenship. This time MPAC's form will do the same, so returning the form is important.

The town's voters list is expected to be ready by the beginning of September, said Bozzato. Town staff will encourage people to check it out on the town's website or by visiting town hall and at a booth at the Pelham Farmers Market.

"The market worked well for us during the last election," said the former deputy clerk. She became clerk April 1 following the retirement of town clerk Cheryl Mickette.

Bozzato said the town has dedicated three pages in the town's brochure to election preparations, expanded references on its website and will provide regular election updates.

Dayboll says when Wainfleet reviewed its list, it found a number of people with unconfirmed citizenship.

"There are a lot of reasons why it happens. When MPAC goes to the national registry of electors, it has to cross reference every field, including things like name, date of birth and address."

She says with Wainfleet's unique address system, which is soon to change information may not come up. If a person hasn't had any changes in their circumstances over the years voter information may have never changed.

The township is trying to correct the unconfirmed citizenship problem by putting up posters and sending out letters.

"Often the return on notice sent to people is not 100%. We just want to remind people on how important it is this time," says Dayboll.

Christie agreed with Dayboll, saying people sometimes see the notices and forget to fill them out or toss them in the garbage.

When you get the notice, make sure you tick off the box for citizenship, sign the form and send it back," says Dayboll. The form also has a self-addressed return envelope.

"The forms should be going out from now until about mid-April, maybe the beginning of May at the latest," says Christie.

She's urging people to make sure everything is correct on the forms, to make any necessary changes and to mail them back by June 1 so the voters lists can be compiled for municipalities.

Ashley Grigg, Port Colborne clerk, says the lakeside city encourages people to fill out the forms when they arrive in the mail this month.

Grigg says the city has followed Wainfleet's example and is sending out letters to residents with unconfirmed citizenship. The letter explains why MPAC is collecting the information.

"We're considering sending a second letter out as follow up," she says. Dayboll says people shouldn't consider the letters as challenges to their citizenship or their right to vote.

"We just need to have up to date information."

Those who miss the MPAC form can still vote in the election, says Dayboll and Christie. To an eligible voter in a municipal election, a person has to be 18 or older, be a resident or own property (including a business) and be a Canadian citizen.

Dayboll says if a person is not on the voters list and checks at township hall after Labour Day they can fill out a form to ensure they get their vote. That form can even be filled out at an advance poll or at a polling station the day of the election. All a person needs is a birth certificate or passport to prove their citizenship.

Welland city clerk Christine Minto said all area clerks are encouraging people to return the MPAC forms.

"We're all on the same page, we want to ensure everybody has the democratic right to vote."

It's been four years since the last municipal election. Most likely missing from the voters list are people who moved since the last election either buying a new house or renting a different apartment.

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■ BLOOM

Lions to host free barbecue

FROM PAGE 2

Nelson said, in addition to residents cleaning up roadsides and their property, she would like to see businesses clean up the front of their properties.

Some of them can get pretty ugly after the winter," she said pointing out it's a poor reflection on the community.

Last year was one of the best for the annual spring event bringing out more than 150 people.

"It depends on the weather," said committee member Santa Cyopak.

■ NPCA

Earth Day event on April 22

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) will be having an Earth Day event on Thursday, April 22nd, 2010 and members of the public are invited to come out and help.

A number of school groups will be on hand to assist in planting 1,500 trees and shrubs at the E.C. Brown Conservation Area on River Road in Pelham between 9:30 am and 2 pm.

This is a great opportunity for everyone to learn about the environment in a hands-on setting. There will be other activities including site tours,

"A nice day will draw more people than a cold, wet one."

For the first 80 people to volunteer, there are a free T-shirts while the second 80 receive free mugs from Tim Hortons, one of the sponsors. Others are Shoppers Drug Mart, the Town of Pelham and Fenwick Lions Club.

The Lions will provide a free barbecue for all participants at 1 p.m. in Centennial Park.

The second participation day is in the fall and based in Fonthill's Peace Park.

Pelham Communities in Bloom Committee is know for

the town's community heritage signs at the entrances of Fenwick, Ridgeville, Fonthill, North Pelham and Effingham. It raises money for the signs.

This year is has a fundraising sign – a licence plate frame promoting "Keeping Pelham Beautiful."

The \$5 frames are on sale at town hall, the Pelham Public Library branches and at Participation Day on April 22.

The committee also sponsors a annual garden tour in July and the annual Trillium Awards for beautiful properties in August.

monitoring exercises including water quality assessments. A BBQ and light refreshments will be served. Portable washrooms and a hand washing station will be on site. Parking is available, and buses can be accommodated. This is a rain or shine event and participants are requested to bring your favourite work gloves and wear appropriate footwear.

The E.C. Brown Wetland is located along the Welland River across from the Welland/Niagara Central Airport on 435 River Road, Pelham L3B 5P4.

The NPCA acquired the property in 2006 and rehabilitated the site to a natural wetland condition. The restoration project included re-establishing the historic riparian wetland community.

This was achieved by excavating a six-acre wetland pond, a small 1/2 acre wetland pocket (vernal pool), and the remainder of the site was restored to meadow / prairie habitat consisting of over 60 species of native trees, shrubs, grasses, wildflowers and aquatic plants.

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COUNCIL

Town council wants province to pay its share to equip hospitals

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — Town councillors want the province to tally up for medical equipment in local hospitals.

Ward 2 Coun. Dave Emmons and Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp put a motion before council last week calling on the province to match capital funds raised locally from municipalities, organizations and individuals.

"The province's hospitals are chronically under-funded to the point where all their equipment requirements currently have to be acquired through their local foundations, related non-profit agencies, special events and the community's generosity either collectively or individually," they said in the motion.

Many municipalities regularly contribute to hospitals for the purpose "of purchasing this necessary and needed equipment," they said.

Emmons said the annual debate of sending funds to the Welland Hospital Foundation is "an ongoing thing."

He wants the provincial government "to live up to the funding" it requires with its hospital decisions.

For the past two years, Pelham has contributed \$20,000 from its annual surplus to the Welland Hospital Foundation.

Six years before that it filled a \$20,000 a year pledge.

Papp said in the past the province regularly gave 50% to 100% of funds for equipment in hospitals but that has faded away.

"It has fallen into the hands of local foundations and fund raising groups," he said.

"We're not talking about money for wheelchairs but funds for major lifesaving equipment," he said.

The pressure on foundations are enormous to buy new equipment and maintain that which is there, Papp said.

"No one can truly understand how fragile this is," Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook said she fully supported this resolution.

"I just wish it could have forward six months ago before the province passed its budget," at least, he said.

Hospitals are already short of wheelchairs, she said echoing Papp's comment.

Mayor Dave Augustyn pointed out the province is already matching contributions in other areas.

Donations to college and university scholarships are matched by the province, he said.

"Niagara college will hold a sea food gala to raise money the province will match," he said.

If the province can do it for education it can do it for hospitals, he said.



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■ **COUNCIL:** Contract for \$5 million awarded

Haist St. reconstruction project starts in May

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Pelham News Staff

PELHAM – By early May work will begin on the second stage of the Haist St. reconstruction.

Town council Tuesday accepted a \$5 million tender from Provincial Construction of Niagara Falls for Phase II.

It was the lowest of 10 bids for the project ranging up to \$5.98 million.

Community and infrastructure services director Kelly Walsh said the work is expected to begin May 1 and continue for 140 working days.

"That should take us into November," he

said.

The number of bids with a 20% difference is typical on a project of this scale, he told town council's general committee.

The work will be done in sections with the road closed during work hours but one lane will be open at the end of each work day.

"We will use moving road closures," Kelly said.

His department will post weekly updates on the town's website indicating which zone will be closed as the project proceeds.

Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook said she was pleased to see the work moving forward quickly.

"People living along Haist St. have been

in a state of upheaval since the project began last year," she said.

"Let's get it done and get out of their lives."

In answer to a question from Ward 3 Coun. John Durley, who fielded calls and e-mails during the first stage of reconstruction, Walsh said an emergency line is available by calling the town's line 905-892-2607 and pressing No. 7 if something comes up after work for the day has ended.

Work under this contract will include:

- replacement of 2,440 metres of cast iron watermain to address water quality and watermain issues;
- construction of 1,860 metres of storm sewers to improve drainage;

- construction of 3,500 metres of new sidewalk;
- reconstruction of 1,900 metres of road and sub-grade;

- construction of four traffic-calming devices to reduce speeding;
- construction of a pedestrian traffic signal at A.K. Wigg Public School.

Aecom will see its engineering agreement extended for \$218,350 to cover engineering services during the project.

The Haist St. project will be completed in 2011 with the planting of new trees and landscaping, said Walsh.

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What can I do to prevent any of this happening to me?

Considering the vast implications of a low nutrient diet, it is worth acknowledging that nutritional balance and good health can be significantly improved and restored with the use of a well made denture, and a vitamin supplement regime planned by your doctor. A well made denture, will allow you to introduce back into your diet all the nutritionally laden foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables, proteins and nuts that were avoided when chewing with an ill-fitting, poorly designed denture. Individuals with implant supported dentures, greatly improve their food choices by including more hard to chew foods that are rich in nutrients, therefore greatly improving their health status.

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■ POLICING

Crime info letter sent to residents

PelhamNews Staff

To proactively ensure the safety of Pelham area homes against property-related crime, Niagara Regional Police are sending letters to residents suggesting safety measures such as locking doors, cars and sheds.

Det. Constable David Sinclair said the informational letter is designed to help citizens protect their property.

It includes recommendations on making homes and neighbourhoods safer and secure.

It also encourages residents to report even the smallest incidents to help police build a profile in an area that has a number of break-ins. Residents in the Foxhall area have particularly experienced break-ins to vehicles, garages, sheds and homes.

"We want to build a partnership," he said and with more information police can look for patterns.

The letter reminds people of the many ways they can deter crime and assist police in preventing crime, conducting investigations and promoting a partnership between the community.

Sinclair said this is the first time he has used a letter in this way and he encourages residents to contact him at 905-735-7811 ext 3316.

For information and tips on ensuring and maintaining safety in all aspects, visit the police website at nrps.comand view the "Crime Prevention" link.



■ **MAY START:** Project cost at \$2.9-million

New Fenwick fire station moving ahead

Pelham NEWS Staff

PELHAM - Ward 1 Coun. Debbie Urbanowicz took a deep breath of relief this week.

Town council accepted the \$112,280 tender of Veherino V.P. Panick Architects to design and oversee the construction of a new Pelham Fire Station No. 2 in Fenwick.

"I'm pleased we are finally bringing this forward and that we have an aggressive schedule to move forward," said Urbanowicz. "Now we just have to keep our-

selves in this timeframe."

She chairs a committee that is planning the \$2.9-million fire station which will replace the current station at Welland Rd. and Canboro Rd.

The town recently purchased a site on Welland Rd. backing onto Centennial Park, east of the current site.

Pelham received 14 submissions to its request for proposals for the project.

Of the top five that met the highest technical scores Panick

Architects was the lowest tender. The highest was \$179,000.

The town had budgeted \$230,000 for this stage of the project.

Chief administrative officer

Martin Yamich said the project will be well within the budget and it has been told it did budget a little high.

The work schedule calls for completion of design drawings by

the end of May, construction tendering at the beginning of June and construction to start in July.

Town staff hope to have the station in use by March 2011.

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MEETING

Women's Institute holds annual meeting

PAMELA BRONN
For PelhamNEWS

Singer's Corners Women's Institute held their annual meeting at the home of Jean Egerton in Allanburg, where reports from various conveners showed this branch had enjoyed a successful and enriching year.

Programs had been presented on culture and health, Tweedsmuir history, education, international affairs and consumers' affairs. A minute for the environment was presented by the president Betty Ralph at most meetings.

Members kept busy with the following activities:

- Food items were collected for the Thorold/St. Catharines Community Cares Program.

- A donation from the disbanded Allanburg Branch, which has joined Singer's Corners, was forwarded to Brock University for the Allanburg WI Book Endowment Fund.

- Four boxes containing baby sweaters and tuques, afghans, quilts, bandages, washcloths, girls' dresses and panties were forwarded to Canada Comforts based in British Columbia for distribution in Haiti and other developing countries or where disasters have occurred.

- A flea market was held and articles

entered in the Niagara Regional Exhibition, with the proceeds used to donate a Scholarship at E. L. Crossley Secondary School and to the Erland Lee (Museum) Home, the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead and the Federated Women's Institute Foundation Fund.

- Pennies for Friendship were collected at each meeting to be forwarded to the Associated Country Women of the World.

In other business, details were given of the up-coming Niagara District WI annual meeting to be held on May 26 at the Cook's Mills United Church. Registration will be at 9:30 a.m. Tickets are \$15. Contact district treasurer Betty MacPherson, 2117 Cataract Rd., R. R. #1, Fonthill, L0S 1B9.

Each branch is asked to bring two gifts valued at \$5 each for a silent auction, as well as articles for the Country Table.

Members paid their fees and told jokes, and a sincere vote of thanks was extended to president Betty Ralph and secretary Marion Egerton for their excellent work during the past year.

Members are looking forward to a new year in W. I., where friendship and support are extended to all members at all times.

HAVE A LITTLE BLIND FAITH



Submitted photo

The acoustic band Blind Fate — Patti Parker lead singer, Mick Parker drums, Paul Wheeler bass, Jon Wheeler electric guitar — plays for children at the Pelham Public Library in a Sunday afternoon concert.

■ **CHAMBER:** Auction helps United Way, youths■ **COUNCIL:** Greenbelt legislation overlooks needs of agriculture

WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Dolores Fabiano, executive director of the Welland/Pelham Chamber of Commerce, left, and chamber president Aggie Giovannini make bids during a silent auction at the 13th annual auction, dinner and dance at Club Castropignano in Port Robinson. About 240 attended the sold-out event, one of the largest crowds it has attracted. A percentage of funds raised goes to the Community Sports Fund and the United Way of South Niagara.

Durley pushes for farmers

PelhamNEWS Staff

Ward 3 Coun. John Durley is preparing for the next gathering of Ontario municipalities in August.

In a report to town council last week on a Greenbelt Summit conference held by Brock University last week he said it's time to press the province to think more of the farmer in the greenbelt.

"The very specific message that rings loud and clear remains that, in order to have a successful greenbelt we need to ensure that there is a successful agricultural community," he told council.

"This group is seeking support not a handout. Without this group we don't eat, that is the bottom line."

The five-year-old greenbelt reaches deep into Pelham from the north wrapping around the town's Fonthill and Fenwick and ending at Foss Rd.

Durley, Mayor Dave Augustyn and Pelham Regional Coun. Brian Baty attended the summit and plan to take its message to Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Brock is putting together research and a report from the summit Durley hopes will be ready for the AMO conference.

"We get about 10 minutes with the various provincial ministers," he said Thursday. "Last year it helped us to get infrastructure money."

This year he hopes to influence the new agriculture minister to improve

support for the agricultural industry if he hopes to make the greenbelt an economic success.

Pelham along with the region have passed resolution encouraging local food sustainability, he said. This is a step forward.

"The greenbelt legislation, according to Margaret Walton, an agricultural planner with the firm Planscape, is very effective in creating an environmental reserve but falls short of its intended creation of an agricultural reserve," Durley said in his report to council.

"She noted that urban expansion, commonly termed urban sprawl, has all but been eliminated since this legislation was introduced, but the farming community still faces many difficult challenges to remain viable and sustainable," he said.

"Ms. Walton points out that 4 major retailers control the retail market of farm goods and that they are making profits while the farmers who produce the food are being left out of this profit end of the equation and face ever increasing costs without the ability to raise prices to cover cost increases," he said.

Jim Brandie, the CEO of the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, emphasized the link between agricultural prosperity and a successful greenbelt, Durley said.

"He offered some very interesting statistics about agricultural activities in Niagara."

Floriculture generates over \$242 million a year, fruit growing over \$108 million, and vegetable and greenhouse operations more than \$23 million.

"All these endeavours create over 9,000 jobs, even more when other spin offs are factored in," Durley said.

"These facts alone illustrate how important farming is to our economy and our well being."

A successful greenbelt needs to be all inclusive surrounding the agricultural industry from the farm to the processor to the packaging and transportation to the wholesaler, to the retailer, to the consumer, Durley said echoing Brandie.

"Everyone in the value chain needs to benefit from any and all decisions regarding policy and legislation in order to maintain a reliable and sustainable supply of food."

Durley said farming in Niagara is challenged by controls. He listed provincial and regional policy statements, pesticide and other environmental concerns, climate change, the escarpment commission, the NFCA, the provincial government and its increasing of the minimum wage.

"A message needs to be sent to the legislators at Queens Park and elsewhere that, if you want to sustain the farming industry and have the ability to feed our communities, some attention needs to be given to the many diverse challenges facing our farmers and it needs to be done now."

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■ **DODGING FOR FUN:** Tournament at the 'Y' attracts a crowd



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

One participant in Saturday's Dodge Ball challenge takes aim at the YMCA.

Dodge ball teams battle for their towns

PelhamNEWS Staff

WELLAND — It was quite the battle at Niagara Centre YMCA, but in the end Mayor Dave Augustyn's Youth Advisory Council just couldn't get out of the way of the balls being thrown their way.

Augustyn's team and a team from Welland Mayor Damian Goulbourne's Youth Advisory Council kicked off a dodgeball tournament at the YMCA on Saturday.

While the two teams of youths were showing approximately 100 children and teens how to play the game, there was a lot on the line for the two mayors.

Jessica Ruddell, a Town of Pelham employee and the mayor's liaison for the youth council, said Augustyn and Goulbourne placed a bet on the game between their teams.

"At the next council meeting, the mayor of the losing team would have to wear a T-shirt from the other city and hold a pizza party for the winners," Ruddell said.

So at the next council meeting, Augustyn will be wearing a City of Welland T-shirt. Augustyn was at the event and took the loss in stride.

Goulbourne couldn't attend the event as he was out of the country at the time.

Ruddell said Pelham had heard Welland's mayor's youth advisory council had put on an event like this past Saturday's before and thought it would be a good idea to team up with them.

"It's a pretty natural partnership," she said.

She said holding it at the YMCA was also natural as many Pelham residents use the facility on Woodlawn Rd.

in Welland.

Jamie Read, child and youth program co-ordinator at the YMCA, said similar events have been held at the facility before and have worked well.

He said the event was open for anyone between the ages of nine and 18.

With five people per team, Read figured there would be about 20 teams in the tournament. Teams were divided by ages groups: nine to 12 year olds, 13 to 15 year olds, and 16 to 18 year olds.

"It'll be a fun day," he said.

Before the tournament kicked off, all the children had a chance to play one giant game called 'Terminator Dodgeball'.

It was a free-for-all, with limited balls and children scrambling to grab and throw them at competitors to knock them out of the game.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Aim and fire. Team mates offer suggestions to a fellow participant in Saturday's Dodge Ball tournament at the YMCA. Teams sponsored by the mayors of Pelham and Welland faced each other with a friendly wager between the municipal leaders on the line.

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